

The Overton Oracle



Volume 26 Issue 3

March 2024

Overton's Free Newspaper - delivered to every household monthly for 25 years

Saturday March 2nd
WI Coffee morning
10.00am - 12.30pm
at the Village Hall

Sunday 17th March
Easter Eggstravaganza
10.00am - 4.00pm
at the Scout Hut



Friday 22nd March
Family Easter Bingo
Eyes down at 6.00pm
at the Village Hall
in support of the St Mary's PTA
and Overton Playcentre.
Tickets can be purchased from the
Playcentre for £3

Successful Magic Show was no illusion...

The Magic Show organised in the Village Hall by the Friends of St Marys, was a great success, with a large audience of all ages. Amigo's Magic, aka Simon Rosselli, entertained and bewildered everyone with his magic, with plenty of participation from the audience.

Many thanks to all those who helped with the bar and raffle, to all those who donated raffle prizes including Two Doves, Mike and Ruth Hamer, Rob Lawrencson, and a special thanks to M E Evans (Butchers) who donated the delicious sausage rolls consumed in the interval. But a huge thank you to Simon who donated his time and expertise to make the evening such a success.

The evening raised a total of £2,260 and the photo shows Simon presenting a cheque to be used to support the fabric and upkeep of our beautiful parish church



Handicraft Show - Be Craftily Creative!

Overton on Dee will be holding the annual Open Handicraft Show in the Village Hall, Pen Y Llan Street, on Saturday May 18th. The show is open to everyone, absolute beginner or experienced crafter from all surrounding areas and is a great opportunity to display your skills. If you have never shown before, please do have a go—it's great fun. Don't think your work isn't good enough, because whether or not you win a prize, it will certainly give a lot of pleasure to all the visitors who come to see and admire the items on display. Of course there may be some friendly competitiveness, but our show is relaxed, enjoyable and informative, and of course there's always a lot to learn by seeing other people's exhibits. That is what the joy of showing is all about. This year we have 29 classes, covering most crafts; also Art, Photography, Woodwork, Floral Art & Floristry, plus a Junior section.

So - what happens at the show? The organisers are up at the crack of dawn of course to make sure everything is set up in readiness, and that plenty of delicious cakes have been made for refreshments! Then from 9am you bring along your exhibit/s with your entry form, and our lovely registrars will give you an exhibitor number which will be attached to the items you are showing. After that, you will be shown where your particular Classes are placed—there will be lots of help and advice available from our stewards if you need it. At 10.15am the doors will be closed to the public, and at 10.30am the Hall cleared of people so that the Judging can take place. We are lucky to have an excellent group of impartial and experienced judges to choose from each year, mostly from neighbouring counties

and who have no involvement with the Show, other than to carefully assess everything they see on the day. They have no way of knowing the identity of any exhibitor so everything is absolutely fair, and it is interesting to see them at work—a rare talent indeed. After judging, and when the judges have had a well-deserved lunch, the Hall opens to the public at 2pm so that everyone can come and be amazed at the wonderful array of exhibits! The Mayor from Wrexham, Cllr Andy Williams will present prizes at 4pm. Schedules are available from Overton shops, Library and Café, and online www.overtonoracle.com. There are a few Hints & Tips on the back of the entry form or other questions please ring me, Margaret O'Neill, on 01978 710451.



Easter at St Mary's Church



For a number of years the village has helped decorate St Mary's at Christmas by supporting the Christmas tree festival.

This year we are asking for your help decorating St Mary's at Easter.

You and your team can build a cross, decorate a cross, bake a cross, or even knit a cross!

Make an Easter flower display with real flowers, paper flowers or recycled material flowers, or knit a display of flowers.

Please encourage your children,

grandchildren and great grandchildren to paint a picture of a bunny or do a paper or material collage of a bunny, bring their teddy bunnies, anything you feel will bring joy and Easter brightness into St Mary's.

All items can be displayed from the 29th March onwards in St Mary's, so you have a few weeks to get together and get creative.

Like at Christmas a vote will take place for the best display with a prize to the winner.

Please help fill St Mary's with love and colours this Easter time.



Overton Recreational Pub is Hiring!

Are you looking for a new challenge? Do you have a love for the hospitality industry?

Overton Recreational Pub has been running as a successful, committee managed, sports and social club for over 50 years.

Recently becoming a pub open to all, we are now looking for a new Bar Steward. The role could be full or part-time - 30-40 hours a week and would cover all aspects of running the pub.

Experience of running a pub, cleaning lines and cellar management would be important, however full training will be given.

Opening hours are 7-11pm Mon-Thurs, 4-12pm Fri & Sat and 3-11pm Sun and flexibility would be needed.

For more information please email overtonrecclub@outlook.com

send us a private message on our Facebook page, or better still pop in and see us for an informal chat.

We look forward to hearing from you.

WI Coffee Morning

Don't forget the WI coffee morning on Saturday 2nd March in the Village Hall from 10.00am - 12.30pm.

There will be bacon baps, cakes, plants, crafts, honey, eggs and more...

Free admission. All welcome.



Knit and Natter

We are the Overton Knit and Natter groups, we meet every Thursday morning at the Two Doves Café in Overton between 11a,m and 2pm.

The group started meeting about 18 months ago, encouraging local knitters and crocheters to get together with a shared interest, but also to encourage anyone who was thinking of learning to knit or crochet to attend. The group currently has 11 members, all with different skills and abilities with knotting and crocheting. Since forming, the group have 'yarn-bombed' the post box in Overton at Christmas time, sold and knitted crocheted hearts for the British Heart Foundation for Valentine's Day, knitted bees and added seeds for the local church of St Mary's. Daffydd our sheep was decorated and currently resides in the Church. We have knitted a King Charles tea cosy for the coronation which was raffled in aid of a Charity called CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably, supporting families affected by suicide), in November a dress covered with handmade poppies was placed in the Two Doves window and handmade poppies were sold in aid of the Royal British Legion. We have donated knitted teddies, baby hats and blankets to the Special Care Baby unit at the Maelor Hospital, the teddies are given to the babies once they leave the unit, we have knitted hats for the homeless which were donated to the Salvation Army.

We currently have knitted Easter chicks, complete with Cadbury Crème eggs for sale at the Two Doves Café (40 made so far), proceeds of the chick sale going to Hope House Hospice.

We are planning a number of craft fair mornings this year on a Saturday in the Parish room in Overton, dates to be advised.

If anyone has any unwanted wool, we are always grateful for donations.

Knitting and crocheting are enjoyable and creative activities which can reduce depression and anxiety by creating a calm and relaxing activity, boost self-confidence and create self-satisfaction knowing that you have created something, reduce your stress levels, improve your dexterity, and hand-eye coordination, increase your social connections, and increase brain activity.

We are always looking for new members so if you fancy learning a new skill or dusting off your knitting needles or crochet hooks, come along, we are a friendly, supportive group, enjoying a cup of tea/coffee with a piece of cake....yum!

Thanks goes to the Two Doves Café for their continued support of our lovely group

We look forward to seeing you soon

Overton Knit and Natter group

Tori Gets Buzzed

Victoria Glover will be shaving her head to raise money for Cancer Research in support of a friend who has recently been diagnosed and is going through chemo, and also in memory of her father.

If you would like to donate to her fundraising mission you can do so online at

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/tori-gets-buzzed>



**CANCER
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UK**

Erbistock Weir

LIFE River Dee is a large-scale project, led by Natural Resources Wales, to transform the river Dee and its catchment by restoring the river and surroundings back to a more natural state. This will bring many benefits to the environment, most notably improving the numbers of salmon, lamprey and freshwater pearl mussels to help them become more sustainable in future.



The river Dee is a Special Area of conservation (SAC), protected under the Habitats Directive because of species and habitats found within the river. Atlantic salmon are the main reason for selection of the 'Afon Dyfrdwy a Llyn Tegid' SAC, and as a result, Natural Resources Wales has a duty to conserve the species at this important site.

Years of monitoring and tracking data has shown that Erbistock weir is the first major upstream barrier on the non-tidal section of the river Dee for salmon, sea trout, sea lamprey and river lamprey.

The structure is 80 metres wide and approximately 3 metres high, which makes it very difficult for fish to swim over. You may even have witnessed fish trying their best to swim up the weir, and whilst it can be exciting to spot them jumping. Unfortunately this is a sign that they are using up their energy and are struggling to pass the barrier, often leaving them vulnerable to predation and unable to reach their spawning grounds upstream.

Whilst there is a 'baulk' fish pass on the weir (the stone and concrete wall on the right bank looking downstream), this type of fish pass is only suitable for stronger swimming species such as salmon. Even with this, many fish don't find this fish pass, and spend time struggling to pass the structure.

With European freshwater fish populations in rapid decline, dropping by an average of 83% since 1970 according to the 2022 Living Planet Report, habitat loss and barriers to migration routes (such as weirs) account for around half the threats to these populations.

As part of our project, we aim to remove approximately a 40 metre section of the weir, as shown in the photo, which will allow the river to gradually return to its original width and encourage natural processes and habitat to re-establish. By opening up this section, it will allow fish to pass through freely, and improve river connectivity which is vital for the survival of the migratory fish, whilst also creating many benefits to the wider ecosystem. The weir will be removed down to the natural bed level.

As part of the work, we have been working with the local Archaeological Trust to record the structure. During the deconstruction, archaeologists will record how the weir has been constructed, providing information about the history of the site that otherwise would not be known.

The work is due to take place this summer during the 'in-river' working period to minimise disruption to wildlife. It will be carried out by contractors who are highly experienced working within rivers and the project team will be on site monitoring the works as they progress.

If you would like to find out more about the LIFE Dee River project, visit our webpage naturalresources.wales/LIFEDeeRiver, follow [@LIFEafonDyfrdwy](https://twitter.com/LIFEafonDyfrdwy) on social media or email the team at lifedeeriver@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk. You can also sign up to our newsletter from our webpage which includes information about the work we are delivering across the catchment through the project.

Chocolate Hot Cross Bun Pudding

Ingredients

6 hot cross buns, halved	4 free range eggs
Butter for spreading	1 tsp vanilla extract
600ml milk	150g caster sugar
400ml double cream	200g leftover milk chocolate egg, broken into pieces
1 cinnamon stick (or 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon)	vanilla ice cream, to serve

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.
2. Spread butter on each half of hot cross bun and arrange the buns in a large ovenproof dish.
3. Gently heat the milk and cream together in a saucepan with the cinnamon stick (or add the ground cinnamon). Remove from the heat to cool slightly.
4. Whisk the eggs together with the vanilla and sugar until pale, then gradually pour in the milk and cream mixture, whisking constantly. Remove the cinnamon stick, if using, then pour the mixture over the hot cross buns and allow to soak in for 15 minutes.
5. Place the ovenproof dish in a large baking tray filled halfway up with water. Sprinkle the chocolate pieces over the top and bake for 45 minutes. Serve hot with vanilla ice cream on the side.



Overton Royal British Legion 120 Club

Results of the '120 Club' bonus draw for February 2024. 120 members entered and the draw was made on Thursday 8th February by Peter Rosselli.

Winners: 1st Prize £240 No 82 David (Smiley) Edwards
2nd Prize £120 No 110 Steve Whitley
3rd Prize £60 No 53 Mary Perrin
RBL £180

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Draw will be on Thursday 14th March 2024. If you wish to join please ring Dave Austin Tel: 01978 710678 or contact him by Facebook Messenger.

All new members must play by Standing Order
"IF YOU DON'T PAY - - - YOU DON'T PLAY"
Thank you for your loyal support

Maelor Music Society

Maelor Music Society is holding their next concert on Friday March 15th. At 7.30pm in Hanmer Church, this time featuring soloists and the accompanist from John's Boys Choir. Tickets will be available on the door, priced £10 for non-members, children free. We anticipate another wonderful evening of music making from some of the best singers of the premier choir in the land! Further details from Geoff Mason (01978 710486)



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Penley Polish Heritage Project

The Rainbow Foundation is an award-winning active ageing charity based in Penley who have been supporting older people in the Maelor south and Wrexham city for nearly 30 years.

The Rainbow Foundation is now looking to celebrate the unique history of the village with the launch of the Penley Polish Heritage Project.

The Penley Polish Heritage Project focuses on the history of the village and surrounding areas after the Second World War and the arrival and resettlement of the Polish soldiers and their families. The timeline of the project will also look at the evacuees to the Madras School and the origins of the camp, that were originally built for and used by US Army troops.

Penley Polish Heritage Project Officer Rebecca Griffiths is third generation Polish and grew up in Penley within a Polish/Welsh family.

Much of Rebecca's childhood was spent with her grandparents on the Penley camp and in the old Polish hospital, where they both worked.

"I feel very privileged to have grown up in such a unique community. That's why I'm so excited to be delivering this project, to ensure the history of this amazing community is remembered and celebrated."

Funded via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is part of the UK Government Levelling Up agenda, we are planning to permanently commemorate Penley's history through developing:

- Memorial garden.
- Walking tour.
- Setting up a History group.
- Temporary exhibition.
- Delivering cultural and heritage events throughout 2024.

This is an amazing project offering multiple ways for people to get involved in their local community. It is important to ensure the remarkable stories and memories about the people of Penley and surrounding areas are not lost.

We are receiving applications for multiple volunteering roles, from history group facilitators, oral history collectors, oral history tellers, creatives, marketing, events support, translators, exhibition support, walking tour guides to gardeners and more!

We urgently need support with gathering information about Penley, developing a history group consisting of people collecting and sharing their memories about Penley and surrounding areas, as well as driving forward the Penley Polish History Group.

Volunteers play a big part in the project. We are dedicated to delivering a comprehensive induction and training to ensure Penley Polish Heritage Volunteers are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to volunteer.

If you are not able to volunteer but you are interested in following the project, you can join our mailing list.

Celebrating volunteers is at the heart of The Rainbow Foundation and they have been a key part of the charity for many years.

If you would like to be involved or are interested in finding out more, please email Volunteer Coordinator Annette Thomas or Project Officer Rebecca Griffiths volunteering@therainbowfoundation.org.uk or call on 01948 830730.

We will be holding our next Penley Polish Heritage Project Community meeting on Thursday 7th March at 7pm located in



**Funded by
UK Government**



**The Rainbow
Foundation**





JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

The Penley Polish Heritage Project will focus on the unique history of Penley from WW2 onwards, for it to be successful though, we need your help.



We need support with:

- Researching the history of Penley
- Helping to create and support a walking tour
- Suggestions and ideas to develop the project
- And more...

If you have any questions about the Penley Polish Heritage Project contact us today!





For more information please contact
Volunteer Coordinator Annette Thomas

volunteering@therainbowfoundation.org.uk

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DON'T BLAME THE DOGS

I am absolutely fed up with writing about dog fouling in the village but until our streets are clean I am going to have to carry on.

Please don't blame the dogs for the mess, every dog deserves a caring and responsible owner. Dogs can't pick up their own excrement.

There are several 'pop bottle poo dispensers' in the village; the Community Council supplies the bags and there is no shortage of litter bins. However it seems that these measures are not enough because dog fouling in Overton is increasing. Do I detect a touch of rebellion among some dog owners? What more can we do?

Suggestions would be appreciated because it is neither fair nor fashionable to have dog poo stuck to your shoes.

Pene Coles

The Harp and its Music

Everyone is welcome to the WI Open March meeting on Thursday March 21st at 7pm in the Village Hall, when award winning harpist, Bethan Griffiths will be talking about the history of the harp, and will be playing a variety of different types of harp music.

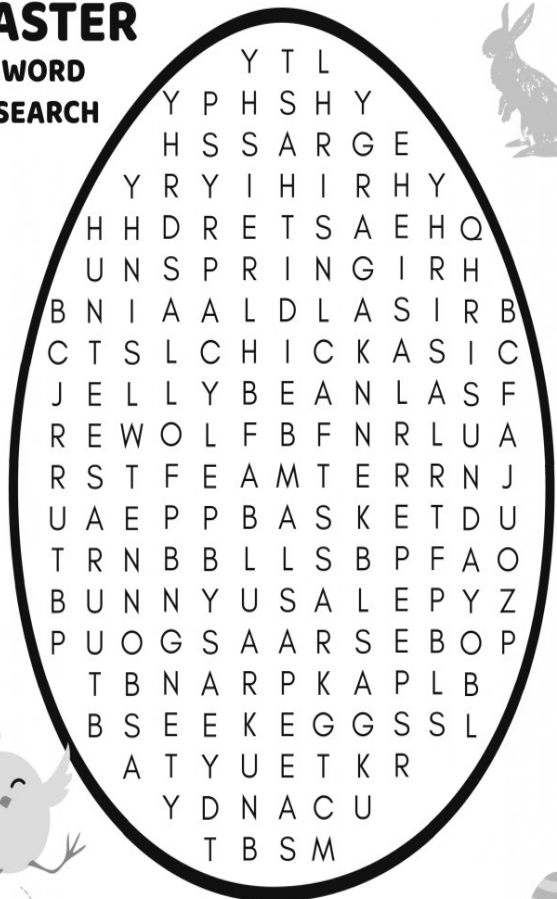
Bethan graduated from the Royal College of Music with a Master of Performance with Distinction in 2019 and upon completing her studies was awarded the prestigious Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Rose Bowl. She has won many awards including first prize in the National Eisteddfod harp solo as well as being chosen as a finalist in the prestigious Blue Riband competition on two occasions.

Since returning to Flintshire, Bethan is enjoying a freelance career as both a harpist and pianist and performs with many orchestras across the UK. It will be a wonderful opportunity to see and hear such a wonderful instrument being expertly played. Visitors are most welcome for £5, which includes refreshments



EASTER

WORD SEARCH



- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------|--------|
| BUNNY | BASKET | GRASS | BONNET |
| EGGS | SPRING | CANDY | SUNDAY |
| CHICK | FLOWER | HUNT | PEEPS |
| JELLYBEAN | EASTER | DYE | LAMB |

Easter Eggstravaganza

Don't forget that the brilliant Easter Eggstravaganza will be returning this month on Sunday 117th March at the Scout Hut from 2.00pm-4.00pm.

The Playcentre, Twinning Association and Overton Growers have organised plenty of fun activities for children (and parents) so they hope you can join them all whatever the weather.

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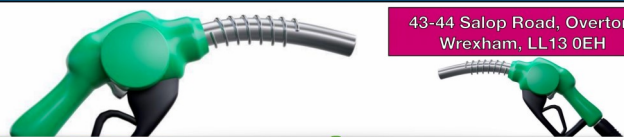
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Whats's On

March Diary for St Mary's

Sunday Mar 3rd 9.30am All Age Worship
 Mothering Sunday Mar 10th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Sunday Mar 17th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Palm Sunday Mar 24th 9.30am Holy Communion
 Good Friday Mar 29th 12.00pm Service
 Easter Sunday Mar 31st 9.30am Holy Communion

March Diary for Overton Methodist Chapel

Sunday Mar 3rd 2.30pm
 Sunday Mar 10th 2.30pm
 Sunday Mar 17th 2.30pm
 Sunday Mar 24th 2.30pm
 Sunday Mar 31st 2.30pm

Services at Our Lady And The Welsh Martyrs

Every Saturday 5.00pm Mass

The Community Hub, Mondays 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th
 March from 2.00pm - 4.00pm, tea and cake in the Parish Room

Every Monday 10.00am-12.30pm Overton Art Group in the Catholic Hall, Wrexham Road.

Every Tuesday (during term time) 9.00am -11.00am Overton Playcentre Baby & Toddler Group at Overton Playcentre

Every Thursday 11.30am-1.30pm Knit and Natter group at The Two Doves Cafe, Overton

Saturday March 2nd 2.00pm WI Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. Free entry all welcome.

Wednesday March 6th 1.00pm-4.00pm Spinning Wheel Craft Group meeting at Catholic Church Hall

Monday March 11th 6.50pm Overton Community Council meeting in the Parish Room. Members of the public wishing to speak can do so 6.50pm-7.00pm

Thursday March 14th 7.00pm Royal British Legion meeting in the Parish Room

Friday March 15th 7.30pm Maelor Music Society at Hanmer Church

Sunday March 17th 2.00pm-4.00pm Easter Eggstravaganza in Scout Hut

Wednesday March 20th 7.00pm Overton History Group meeting in the Parish Room

Thursday March 21st 7.00pm Overton on Dee WI Open Meeting in the Village Hall. Speaker: Bethan Griffiths "The Harp and its Music". All welcome

Friday March 22nd 8.00pm eyes down for Family Easter Bingo in the Village Hall, in aid of St Mary's PTA and Overton Playcentre

Saturday March 30th 10.00am-12.00pm Methodist Church Coffee Morning.

Family Announcements



Happy March Birthdays to... Thelma Bamford, Margaret O'Neill, Jan Davies, Sue Foulkes, Rosemary Lancaster-Jones, Rona Williams, Sheila Miller, Joanne Kember, Gwynneth Austin and Cynthia Davies

Happy 70th Birthday to Michael Smith

Note from the Editor...

We are updating a few aspects of the Oracle to keep it more up to date with our readers, as such from February 2024 we will only be including birthdays and family announcements that are sent to the Oracle email address or relayed to the committee in person or via phone. If you would like to keep your family announcements included, please let us know before the submission date. We will happily accept announcements a few months in advance if you would rather send them all at once.

Dustbin Days

Thurs March 7th	<i>Garden Waste & Recycling/food</i>
Thurs March 14th	<i>General Waste & Recycling/food</i>
Thurs March 21st	<i>Garden Waste & Recycling/food</i>
Thurs March 29th	<i>General Waste & Recycling/food</i>

146 Bus Timetable

	*	#			
Wrexham K St	8.25	8.25	11.25	14.00	17.00
Overton	8.45	8.53	11.53	14.28	17.28
Whitchurch	9.15	9.30	12.30	15.00	18.00
Whitchurch	7.20	9.20	9.40	12.40	15.05
Overton	7.51	9.51	10.11	13.11	15.45
Wrexham K St	8.25	10.25	10.40	13.45	16.20

* School days only

Saturday & School holidays

PLEASE REMEMBER

Copy deadline is 16th February for the March edition.

Get your events & news to us early to avoid disappointment

THIS INCLUDES ADVERTISEMENTS

Leave your contributions & announcements at the Corner Shop or email overtonoracle@gmail.com

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 e-mail: sales@wtefans-printers.co.uk

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